

Redmond Arts Commission

2005 Annual Report

Enhancing Our Community through the Arts

Letter from the Chair

2005 was a year of big changes for the Arts in Redmond. The new City Hall and nearby parking garage both incorporate stunning new pieces of public art by nationally-known artists – *Silver Thaw* by Ed Carpenter at the entrance to the new City Hall, and *River and Rain* by Blue McRight and Warren Wagner on the east side of the parking garage. The move to the new City Hall gave us the rare opportunity to evaluate, photograph, and, in some cases, repair part of our collection and then place those pieces in public spaces within City Hall. New public art pieces also grace the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center grounds and the ball fields in Grass Lawn Park. A new Redmond Outdoor Sculpture exhibit debuted in the fall with two new business sponsors, Tenhulzen Remodeling and First Mutual Bank, joining Redmond Town Center and the Redmond Regional Library. We hope to continue to add community, business, and perhaps private sponsorships in the future.

Work has begun on a new Redmond Arts section of the city's web site (www.redmond.gov/arts), with a goal of making it easier for the public to find information about art and events. Within the Arts Commission, we have worked to improve our processes and have embarked on a strategic planning process to help us learn how best to enhance Redmond through the arts.

As always, we appreciate the support of the Mayor and City Council, the citizens, and our volunteers who help with activities and serve on our committees. Additional volunteers and committee members are always welcome.

Roy Leban, Arts Commission Chair 2005

History

The Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) was formed in 1987 to address matters concerning the arts in Redmond. The commission's primary role is to recommend policies and procedures and to co-

sponsor art programs that serve Redmond residents. The Arts Commissioners are nine citizen volunteers who are recommended by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. They can serve up to two three-year terms.

The RAC has created a lively arts atmosphere in Redmond with indoor and outdoor public art (both permanent and temporary exhibits), two performing arts series, a literary arts festival, arts education programs and resources, and grant funding that supports community arts organizations and programs.

Mission Statement

Enhancing our community through the arts.

Goals

1. Achieve excellence in arts programming for the people of Redmond.
2. Nurture and support artists, arts organizations and arts education.
3. Promote active participation and attendance of arts events by Redmond residents.
4. Build public-private partnerships to support a growing level of local cultural activity.

2005 Accomplishments



Adefua African Music & Dance Company at Microsoft. They also performed for the City Council at Redmond Arts Day (AITP).

Performing Arts

The RAC put on 17 performances around Redmond in 2005. Both Winter Performance Series and Arts in the Parks had increased attendance. Funding support was provided by 4Culture, Microsoft, Redmond Town Center, Redmond Tourism Development Fund, Kanishka Cuisine of India and the Redmond branch of the Wells Fargo Bank.

The **Winter Performance Series** presented three diverse shows: juggling comedy by *Brothers from Different Mothers*, flamenco music and dance by *Carmona Flamenco*, and salsa music and dance by *Nueva Era*. The total attendance of 430 represents a 22% increase over the previous year.



Rick Hartman, *The Toymaker* performs at Anderson Park (AITP).

The **Arts in the Parks** summer series events were held in two outdoor locations. The performances at Anderson Park featured balafon music from Guinea by *Naby Camara and Lagni Sussu*, *Ed Hartman and the Olympic Marimba Band*, Shakespearean tragedy (*Macbeth*) by *Wooden O Theatre*, ancient woodwinds and modern instruments by *Ancient Sounds of Washington* and toys and imaginative tales by *Rick Hartman, The Toymaker*. The performers at Microsoft were: *Sonando* (Afro-Cuban jazz), *The Smilin' Scandinavians* (polka), *Adefua African Music & Dance Company*, and *The River City Ramblers* (folk and bluegrass). Other performances included funky grooves by *The Jude Bowerman Band* at Redmond Town Center and costumed Cuban dance by *TropiCuba* at the annual Redmond Derby Days Parade. The total attendance of 2,085 (excluding the Derby Days parade) represents a 28.2% increase over

the previous summer. The Arts in the Parks information page on the city's web site showed a sharp (more than four-fold) increase in the number of visitors over the summer, indicating that Redmond residents and visitors are looking for program information online.

The Arts Commission teamed up with 4Culture in 2005 to bring to Redmond two artist groups in their highly-successful *site-specific* **King County Performance Network** program. Redmond audiences enjoyed performances of "Trailer Tales" by *theater simple* and "Neighborhoodlum" by *One Lump or Two Productions*.

Visual Arts

Redmond Outdoor Sculpture (ROS)

The Redmond Outdoor Sculpture program contracted a paid curator (for the first time since 2000) to coordinate the artist selection and manage this temporary exhibit. Artists from the Pacific Northwest and the San Francisco Bay Area exhibited 17 pieces of artwork at the Redmond Town Center and REI sites, as well as new locations around downtown. Community sponsors Redmond Regional Library, First Mutual Bank, and Tenhulzen Remodeling provided funding support and sites. A fold-up brochure provided a map, photographs and GPS coordinates for the artwork and also listed the City's permanent outdoor artwork. The Tourism Development fund sponsored a mailing of the brochure to Chambers of Commerce across Washington. It was also posted on the RAC website.

The ROS opening in October was held at Redmond Town Center. It included a guided walking and a driving tour of the artwork. Attendance: 40



ROS: "Nemata" (steel) by Morgan Hammer of Seattle in front of First Mutual Bank, 16900 Redmond Way.

New Outdoor Sculpture at the ORSCC



"Large Double Swirl with Glass" (stainless steel and glass) by Andrew Carson at the ORSCC west driveway entrance, 16600 NE 80th Street.

Commissioners and staff researched and worked with Seattle artist, Andrew Carson, to identify a location for one of the artist's kinetic sculptures. The site at the west driveway entrance to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center was selected. It received approval from the Lake Washington School District (which owns the site), the City's Technical committee which reviews installation of work within the City's right of ways, and the Park Board. Funding was approved by the City Council and the work was dedicated in January 2006.

Percent for Art Project

May 14 marked the dedication of the new Percent for Art larger than life, stainless steel sculpture titled *The First Pitch* by Chinese artist, Hai Ying Wu, at the east pedestrian entrance into Grass Lawn Park, near the ball fields. Attendance: 20



Left to right: Latha Sambamurti, Tom Flynn, Heidi Houghton, "First Pitch" (stainless steel) by Hai Ying Wu, Kay Tarapolsi, Roy Leban at Grass Lawn Park, 7031 148th Avenue NE.

New Municipal Campus Art

Installation of the Parking Garage art project by Blue McRight and Warren Wagner of Venice, California, began in December and will be dedicated in Spring 2006.

Other Visual Art Projects

The temporary artwork *Kat-a-pillar* donated by Herb Bentley of Bellevue, was removed from the Old City Hall Lobby and will be refurbished and relocated at the Community Center.

The existing 2-D and 3-D city owned artwork from the old City Hall and satellite sites were removed and evaluated in preparation for installation in the new City Hall.



"Southwest Angel" (charcoal and pastels) by Lynne Saad at the new City Hall, 15670 NE 85th Street.

Transit Shelter Artist Selection

In a partnership with King County Metro Transit, the RAC participated in an artist selection panel that was held in December for a new transit shelter to be placed on Redmond Way just west of 160th Ave NE. For Metro Transit, integrating art into shelters helps make them more attractive, but it also cuts down on graffiti and vandalism, and reduces repair and refurbishment costs. For the Arts Commission, this enhances the Redmond community through the arts.

The selection panel reviewed proposals from artists in Washington and California and chose Seattle artist Stuart Nakamura, who has a long history of public art projects around the Puget Sound. The shelter, including Nakamura's dynamic design of birds in flight, will be installed in 2006.

ORSCC Gallery

The ORSCC Gallery exhibits art in the main hall of the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

In 2005, over 15 artists were featured in seven shows. Thanks go to volunteer curator Arriba Stature and the artists for making this program a success. Attendance: 2,196

The schedule for the year was:

Dec 13 – Feb 3	Blue Earth Alliance
Feb 5 – April 2	Jessica Phrogus & Flora Ramirez-Bustamante
April 2 – June 4	Ellen Miffit & Adelle Eustis
June 4 – Aug 6	Redmond Historical Society Art Contest
Aug 6 – Oct 1	John A Woodard & Miriam Drake
Oct 1 – Nov 19	Lisa Sheets & Yael Zahavy-Mittelman
Nov 19 – Jan 7	Old Firehouse Teen Center – Teen Art



"Jury of Her Peers" (collage and acrylic) by Lisa Sheets.

Literary Arts

Write Out Loud! Literary Arts Festival

Cosponsor Redmond Association of SPokenword, literary arts festival organizers, provides spoken word programs for all ages in Redmond. **Write Out Loud!** was cosponsored in the spring with six spoken word events for all ages. Attendance: 326

Art Quest continues to be a solid section in FOCUS, and the **Community Arts Calendar** section was added to the City Website to provide information for Redmond residents to explore the arts in Redmond and the eastside. Close to 3,000 issues of FOCUS were mailed to art supporters in addition to the 26,000 that are mailed to Redmond residents quarterly.

Arts Awards



Left to right: Mayor Rosemary Ives, Jim Cummings of the Rotary Club of Redmond, John Urbach, Arts Commission Chair Roy Leban.

The annual City of Redmond Volunteer Arts Awards were presented on Redmond Arts Day June 19 to the Rotary Club of Redmond (in recognition of their \$10,000 donation for the art bench at Firefighter's Plaza), Richard Ruiz (for his work as a graphic artist on the 2003-04 ROS brochures and invitations) and John Urbach (in recognition of his service as a SecondStory Repertory volunteer since 1997). The fused glass sculptures were created by Redmond artist Bill Ayers. Ayers has a glass art studio where he teaches workshops and does commissioned artwork. He also does school programs and projects with glass art. Attendance: 90

Grants

Organizational Support Grants totaling \$2,750 were awarded to:

- Eastside Association of Fine Arts (\$1,250) - General support.
- Second Story Repertory (\$1,500) - General support.

Arts Education Grants totaling \$2,220 were awarded to:

- Anne Briggs (\$720) - "Life in Woolly Lane" Workshop. This program was held at Redmond elementary schools. It included readings and activities based on the book "Life in Woolly Lane" and copies of the book for 4th grade classrooms and school libraries.
- Audubon Elementary School (\$1,500) - Art Docent Program. Support to all grades art docents in the class room.

Arts Education

A second printing of the K-2 and 3-6 Art and Literacy Lessons Books was published and available for purchase by Washington State schools and arts organizations. The Art Lesson Books order form became available online at www.redmond.gov/arts.

Special Projects

Visioning/Strategic Planning Process

A retreat was held in January of 2005 and two ad hoc committees were created: the Interview Committee and the Handbook Committee. The Interview Committee addressed the interview questions used during the process of choosing new arts commissioners. The Handbook Committee worked on rewriting and reformatting the Arts Commission Operations Manual. The new RAC Handbook will address operational and organizational issues, and will include policies and procedures and the most up-to-date information.

In April, another ad hoc committee was created to look into the viability of a strategic planning exercise for the Arts Commission, the City and the community. The committee recommended that the Arts Commission hire a consultant to facilitate the process that will occur in 2006

Publicity/Tourism

Thanks to funding support from the Tourism Development Fund, 2005 was the second time the RAC used paid ads to promote key Arts Commission programs such as Arts in the Parks, the Winter Performance Series and the Redmond Outdoor Sculpture exhibit programs in other cities (Bellingham, Spokane, Yakima and Vancouver WA). A new flyer format was created for Arts in the Parks which allowed the flyer to be used as a poster as well. This award-winning flyer contained local hotel and shopping info, making it suitable for distribution to outside of Redmond.

Website improvements

Staff and Commissioners met and developed a new organizational structure for the information in the Redmond Arts Commission's portion of the City's website. A shortcut URL of www.redmond.gov/arts was added to make it easier for people to locate arts information on the City's extensive website.



To view the RAC Past, Present, and Future Flash movie, go to the RAC web site, click on the Arts Commission link at the top, then click on the flower icon on the right.

2005 Stats

Total program attendance: 18,884

Total volunteer hours: 1,506

Total volunteers: 33

Total expenses \$103,388

Program expenses: \$59,544

Total Revenue: \$261,763*

* Notes: Reflects beginning fund balance with Percent for Art carry over, cultural plan savings and reserve.

2005 Arts Commissioners/Staff

Commissioners

Chair:

Roy Leban

Vice Chair:

Yvette Kirby Waters (until 7/05)

Heidi Houghton (since 10/05)

John Davis (started 4/05)

Tom Flynn (started 3/05)

Kay Tarapolsi

Kathryn Innes (until 5/05)

Latha Sambamurti

Jill Schmidt (end of term 3/05)

Phil Teller

Youth Advocates

Julia Marino (through 6/05)

Nicole Rollofson (resigned 2/05)

Redmond Staff

Danny Hopkins, *Director of Parks & Recreation (through 11/05)*

Craig Larsen, *Director of Parks & Recreation (started 12/05)*

Melna Skillingstead, *Arts Commission Administrator*

Sandra Bettencourt, *Program Manager*

Dorie Lysaght, *Administrative Assistant*

Parks and Recreation Support Team

Margo Howard, *Administrative Assistant*

Pam Maybee, *Recording Secretary*